

20546-0001. While hard copy comments are preferred, comments by electronic mail may be sent to marsscop@hq.nasa.gov. The DEIS may be reviewed at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, Room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

(b) Spaceport U.S.A., Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407-867-2497 so that arrangements can be made.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818-354-5179).

In addition, the DEIS may be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(d) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650-604-4191).

(e) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, P.O. Box 273, Edwards, CA 93523 (661-258-3449).

(f) NASA, Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216-433-2755).

(g) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301-286-0730).

(h) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281-483-8612).

(i) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681 (757-864-2497).

(j) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (256-544-2030).

(k) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (228-688-2164).

Limited hard copies of the DEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Mark Dahl at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark R. Dahl, 202-358-1544; electronic mail (marsscop@hq.nasa.gov). The DEIS also is available in Acrobat® format at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oss> or <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oss/mars.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MS 01 mission is part of a series of missions to characterize Mars' atmosphere, geologic history, climate, and the relationship to Earth's climate change process. These missions aim to determine what resources Mars provides for future exploration, and to search for evidence of past and present life. The MS 01 mission would specifically continue the global reconnaissance of Mars via an orbiter spacecraft, and continue the intense study of local areas of the surface via a lander/rover spacecraft.

The proposed action consists of continuing preparations for and implementing the MS 01 mission. The MS 01 orbiter would be launched on a Delta II 7925 from VAFB in March-April 2001. The MS 01 lander carrying the rover would be launched on a Delta II 7425 from CCAS in April 2001. Alternatives that were evaluated included an Orbiter-and-Lander-Only mission, an Orbiter-Only mission, and the No-Action alternative.

For the MS 01 mission, the potentially affected environment for normal launches includes the areas at and in the vicinity of the two launch sites, CCAS in Florida and VAFB in California. The environmental impacts of normal launches of the two spacecraft for the proposed action would be associated principally with the exhaust emissions from each of the Delta II launch vehicles. These effects would include short-term impacts on air quality within the exhaust cloud and near the launch pads, and the potential for acidic deposition on the vegetation and surface water bodies at and near each launch complex, particularly if a rain storm occurred. The potential exists for disturbance of some protected wildlife species, which has been addressed by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and incidental take permits and mitigation plans are in place.

A concern associated with launch of the MS 01 lander/rover spacecraft involves potential launch accidents that could result in the release of some of the radioactive material on board the lander/rover spacecraft. The lander would employ two instruments which use small quantities of cobalt-57 (1.30×10^{10} Becquerels or 350 millicuries) and curium-242 (up to 7.40×10^5 Becquerels or 20 microcuries) as instrument sources. The rover would have three RHU's that use plutonium dioxide to provide heat to the electronics and batteries on board the rover. The radioisotope inventory of the three RHU's would total approximately 3.69×10^{12} Becquerels (99.6 curies) of plutonium. The rover would also carry curium-244 (up to 3.70×10^9 Becquerels or 100 millicuries) on its spectrometer and a small americium-241 source (up to 1.11×10^6 Becquerels or 30 microcuries) on a dust experiment package.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with NASA, has performed a risk assessment of potential accidents for the MS 01 lander/rover. This assessment used a methodology

refined through applications to the Galileo, Cassini, and Mars Pathfinder missions and incorporates safety tests on the RHU's, as well as evaluation of the January 17, 1997, Delta II accident at CCAS. DOE's risk assessment for this mission indicates that in the event of a launch accident the expected impacts of released radioactive material at and in the vicinity of the launch area, and on a global basis, would be small.

Jeffrey E. Sutton,

Associate Administrator for Management Systems.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (99-146)]

Notice of Prospective Patent License

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Prospective Patent License.

SUMMARY: NASA hereby gives notice that CISC, Inc. of Akron, Ohio, has applied for a partially exclusive license to practice the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 5,379,469, entitled "Constant Current Loop Impedance Measuring Device That Is Immune to the Effects of Parasite Impedances," which is assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The fields of use will be limited to medical applications and sleep disorder devices. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license should be sent to the Assistant Patent Counsel of the NASA Management Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

DATE: Responses to this notice must be received by January 28, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John H. Kusmiss, Assistant Patent Counsel, NASA Management Office—JPL, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Mail Station 180-802, Pasadena, CA 91109-8099; Telephone (818) 354-7770.

Dated: November 19, 1999.

Edward A. Frankle,

General Counsel.

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